

2517 '00 JAN -6 A11 04

October 29, 1999

RE: Human antibiotics in animal feed

FDA Commissioner Jane E. Henney
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Henney:

Subject: Public health implications

I understand livestock producers are feeding their animals antibiotics similar to those used in humans as a means of growth promotion. One consequence of this practice is the breeding of microbes pathogenic to people but relatively resistant to commonly used antibiotics. I think I read in a publication of the American Academy of Family Physicians that your husband is a doctor. Perhaps you could ask him if he experiences anxiety like I do when one of his hospitalized patients with a serious infection is not improving despite treatment with a generally appropriate antibiotic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as numerous associations of medical professionals have issued recommendations to limit the spread of multiple-antibiotic-resistant bacteria by the judicious use of antibiotics. It is reasonable to me that food producers do the same.

I am interested in learning more about the FDA's position on this matter. If you cannot write me back, perhaps you can direct me to a web site that will help answer my questions. You may contact me using the following: Chris.Keenan@UCHSC.edu (e-mail); 303-665-3036, 227 (voice mail); 303-554-0318 (home). Thank you for your consideration of this issue of profound public health importance.

Respectfully yours,

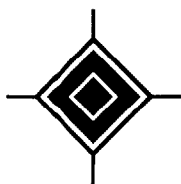


Chris Keenan, M.D.

cc: Michael F. Jacobson
Executive Director
Center for Science in the Public Interest
1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20009-5728

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CLINICA CAMPESINA

1345 Plaza Court North 1A
Lafayette, Colorado 80026



FDA COMMISSIONER JANE E. HENNEY
5600 FISHERS LANE (PARKLAWN BLDG, RM 14-71)
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857

